USC

COURSE OUTLINE

SCS110 Australian Society: How does(n't) it work? - An Introduction to Sociology

Course Coordinator: Phillip Ablett (pablett@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Law and Society

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast USC Moreton Bay USC Fraser Coast	ON CAMPUS	Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.
Online	ONLINE	You can do this course without coming onto campus.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

Australia is a changing society in a rapidly changing world. The benefits and disadvantages of social change are unevenly distributed. Australian society is characterised by significant inequalities of class, gender, ethnicity and power. Change and inequality affect all the institutions in which we live - education, healthcare, work, religion and government. This course introduces you to a sociological understanding of social change and inequality. It questions whether Australian society is working well for all who live here and, if not, how we might change it for the better.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus 2 hour tutorials	2hrs	Week 1	13 times
Lecture – 2 hours of lecture content for students to complete in their own time. Not for timetable	2hrs	Week 1	13 times
ONLINE 1			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Synchronous tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	13 times
Lecture – Online lecture content	1hr	Week 1	13 times

1.3.   Course Topics

- Introduction: Society, Social Inequality and Social Change
- The Sociological Imagination
- Modernity and Globalisation
- Social Theory: Classical and Contemporary
- Class Inequality
- Gender Inequality
- Ethnic and Indigenous Inequality
- Understanding Power and the State
- Understanding Work, Religion, Health, Education and Social Movements
- Understanding Social Change

2.   What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3.   What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4.   How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	GRADUATE QUALITIES Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts for developing a critical understanding of society.	Knowledgeable
2 Demonstrate a sociological understanding of the nature of social relationships and institutions; patterns of social diversity and inequality; and processes that underpin social change and stability.	Creative and critical thinker
3 Communicate sociological ideas, principles and knowledge to specialist and non-specialist audiences using appropriate formats.	Engaged
4 Apply sociological theories, concepts and evidence to sociological questions.	Empowered
5 Critically review, analyse, summarise and synthesise sociological scholarship including research.	Creative and critical thinker

5.   Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the USC Glossary of terms for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1.   Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2.   Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3.   Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4.   Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

In week 4 an online test will be administered to provide some early feedback on your engagement with the learning materials covered up to that point. This will enable your tutor to identify any issues you might be having with the material and suggest appropriate strategies for improving your learning.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	10%	One week	Week 4	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2a	Plan	Individual	10%	400 words	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2b	Essay	Individual	40%	2000 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	40%	3 Hours	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 1: Online test on Basic Sociological Terms

GOAL:	To test your knowledge and comprehension of some basic concepts and terms used in sociology.	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	You will be required to undertake a multiple-choice test that addresses material from the SCS110 readings and lectures between weeks 1 and 4. To do this you shall need to log onto Blackboard and complete the set of questions that appear under Assessment Task 1 in multiple choice form. The test will be available on Blackboard and is automatically submitted for an assessment grade through this system. Although the test does contribute some marks towards your final grade its primary purpose is formative. This means it is intended to serve as a preparatory guide to the sociological learning that we expect you to achieve in SCS110. Formative assessment is used to promote learning. You will be given the correct answers to any questions you may get wrong.	
CRITERIA:	**No.**	**Learning Outcome assessed**
	1 Correct identification of the definition and use of basic sociological terms.	①

All - Assessment Task 2a: Major Essay - Draft Plan (containing thesis statement)

GOAL:	This exercise assists you in the initial planning of the major essay on a substantive area of sociological analysis concerning social inequality and/ or social change by writing up the main elements of an essay plan.
PRODUCT:	Plan
FORMAT:	This is an individually written, introductory plan of 400 words, in preparation for your major essay on a substantive area of sociological analysis concerning social inequality and/ or social change in Australia; such as poverty, class, gender, racism, education, health-care, work, religion or government. It is also an opportunity for you to receive feedback from your tutor at an early point. The essay questions on these topics will be placed on Blackboard in Week 1. You need to identify a topic-question of importance to you that you are going to focus on in your essay. Your plan will include the following 5 components: 1) An identification and initial understanding of a substantive area of sociological analysis concerning social inequality and/or social change. 2) A clear claim ('thesis') statement addressing the topic question/ problem, indicating logical direction of argument. 3) A Demonstrated awareness of proposed sources of knowledge that will be used to support an argument of this kind (theoretical/empirical, quantitative/qualitative, comparative, historical, documentary, official statistics, peer reviewed studies,critical review of literature, survey or interview based research, etc.). 4) An initial identification of relevant sociological theory(ies) that will be used to explain the problem or issue. 5) A prelimiary bibliography of 6 sources you have consulted so far in planning your essay that are relevant to the essay topic.

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Sociological understanding – clarification of the relevant social causes or meanings giving rise to a human problem/ issue.	② ④

All - Assessment Task 2b: Major Essay - complete

GOAL:	The purpose of this essay is for you to demonstrate a critical sociological understanding of one of the major substantive areas involving social inequality and/ or change in Australian society (such as poverty, class, gender, racism, education, health-care, work, religion or government) covered in lectures, tutorials, and tutorial readings, during weeks 3-12
PRODUCT:	Essay
FORMAT:	This is an individual assignment of 2000 words, plus references. It builds directly upon the research and planning that you have demonstrated in Assessment Task 2 Part 1. On the basis of the feedback that you receive on the draft of your introductory plan, you shall develop those initial elements into a final, completed version of your essay. The list of essay topics will be made available in Week 1 on Blackboard at: https://online.usc.edu.au. You will need to use at least 8 academic sources (i.e. sociology journal articles or published sociology books) to pass this essay. See the SCS110 Library Guide if in doubt, http://usc-au.libsurveys.com/SCS110

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Sociological understanding – clarification of the relevant "social causes or meaning" of the issue.	② ③
	2	Critical application of sociological theory.	④
	3	Synthesis – claim plus evidence = argument.	⑤
	4	Communication – clarity, grammar, referencing	③

All - Assessment Task 3: Examination

GOAL:	The purpose of the exam is to (a) test your sociological knowledge and (b) demonstrate your critical understanding of three selected areas of sociological analysis.
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled
FORMAT:	The SCS110 online examination will be taken during the end of semester examination period over a period of two hours and ten minutes. The exam date will be made available towards the end of semester. The format will consist of multiple choice questions worth 50% and three short discussion questions, also worth 50% of the exam score. The multiple-choice section of the exam will test students' knowledge of basic sociological concepts and major research findings in the areas covered by the course, concerning Australian society. The purpose of the short-essay section is to allow students to demonstrate their understanding of the sociological issues concerning inequality and change raised in this course. It will be based on the work covered during the entire semester.

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identification of sociological terms and findings in multiple-choice section	1
	2	Application of sociological theories, concepts and evidence to a broad range of social issues, concerning social inequality and change in the short answer section.	2 3 4

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Required	Compiler: Phillip Ablett	2021	Sociology: An Introduction to SCS110	Pearson

8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:
- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the Learning Advisers web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to Student Hub, email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, AccessAbility Services can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to Student Hub, email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:
- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

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